

is, these postal managers could not deliver their way out of a paper bag. I believe they do not even know their heads from their assets. I say the Congress should join with Martha Cherry and give her a hand in putting her 13-inch goose step right up their gestapo tactics.

After all, I admit the Postal Service has a problem, but it is not Martha Cherry's footwork.

I yield back the balance of all this chicanery.

NATIONAL DEBATE ON TAX CODE

(Mr. PAXON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, the way this Congress balanced the budget was in 1994 in the Contract With America, we set the date on which we would balance the budget, 2002, then we began a great national debate on how we would accomplish that.

My friends, we need to do the exact same thing in reforming our Federal Tax Code. Yesterday I filed legislation that would sunset the entire Federal Tax Code absent Social Security and Medicare effective December 31, 2000. That action by this Congress in giving the President that bill this year will begin a great national debate. We will have the opportunity to listen to the American people on whether they want a flat income tax, a national sales tax, a match tax proposed by the Cato Institute or some other approach.

But the important thing is to begin that debate. But sunseting the IRS Code, by passing that legislation this year, the debate can begin. The starting gun will go off. I think it will be a great experience to go to this country, to listen to the American people, to get their views. I hope my colleagues will join with me in this important historic national effort.

SUPPORTING THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, our first job in Congress must always be to do everything we can to defend and create American jobs. Yet the charter of one of the strongest tools in our job creating arsenal, the Export-Import Bank, runs out on September 30. Why should we care? We should care because European-based Airbus, which receives substantial export support from France, Germany, and Britain, is as we speak trying to steal international clients from American-based Boeing.

Airbus is openly telling Boeing's customers that congressional inaction is evidence they can no longer rely on the U.S. Export-Import Bank to keep providing the backing for their transactions. Boeing has thousands of sup-

pliers spread across the country, 72 of them in my home State of New Jersey. Each one of those suppliers supports families and homes and school tuition for hard working Americans.

I am here today with my distinguished colleague the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT], the chief deputy Republican whip, because this is not a partisan issue, it is an American issue, it is a jobs issue. For these reasons, it is an issue that should move to the top of the agenda and on to the House floor.

EDUCATION A PRIORITY FOR ALL

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, education is the priority for all of us. There is a lot more to education though than just putting more money in it. Sometimes this body appears to confuse that.

Let us say, for instance, school structure. I could not be prouder than I am of the city of Chicago, which only a few years ago had some of the worst schools in the country, and working with the Democratic mayor, working with the Republican legislature, they put a new structure in place which has reduced crime, put out a core curriculum, and has increased test scores several times over.

They are really moving in the right direction. I am also proud of this body. Yesterday we voted the Goodling amendment. The teachers in my district have told me very plainly, we do not need to test and test and test. I guess my question is, like a farmer, if you test too many times, it is like weighing your cow every day. It does not do any good.

The Republicans, I believe, have the right idea for education and we need to keep pursuing it.

SOLIDARITY IN ORANGE COUNTY

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during the August recess I joined over 2,000 of my constituent to rally in support of human rights and democracy in Vietnam. We marched in protest of the recently reported human rights abuses and religious oppression by the Government of Vietnam.

In response to high taxes and official corruption, uprisings have begun in the provinces of Vietnam. And what was the response of the Vietnamese Government to these protests? Well, reports indicate that the Vietnamese Government has dispatched security forces and arrested hundreds of these protesters, and the farmers have also been forcibly removed from their land by the special police.

Last month I joined my constituents in sending a strong message to Hanoi,

a message that these injustices will not be tolerated, a message that the Government must obey, respect and honor human and religious rights in Vietnam.

I urge the administration to ensure that the protection of religious practice and freedom of expression remains key in any policy towards Vietnam.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM TRAIN

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, exactly 50 years ago today on September 17, 1947, the Freedom Train began its historic 16-month tour across the United States. This special train, commonly known as the Spirit of 1776, carried over 100 historic documents to hundreds of communities in all of the then 48 States.

More than a rolling museum, the Freedom Train was a 16-month experiment in civic awareness that provided a vivid reminder of the greatness of America's heritage to a nation still recovering from economic depression and world war.

Imagine what it must have felt like to see the Freedom Train rolling into your hometown in 1947 and open its doors to reveal original documents like the Magna Carta, the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence. The Freedom Train's tour logged more than 37,000 miles.

Today railroading enthusiasts across the country pause to pay tribute to this unique train and to its enlightened mission to renew pride in our Nation's founding principles.

I would like to give special thanks to Mary Jayne and John Z. Rowe, two Virginians who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the special story of the Freedom Train will never be forgotten.

THE HOUSE SCHEDULE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I know many people wonder what takes precedence here in Washington, DC. It is kind of puzzling when you watch the House in session. Is it the 13 unfinished appropriations bills, the bills that will fund every part of the Government for the next fiscal year, which are due on the first of October? Not a one has been passed? Can we avoid another Government shutdown? Is that a crisis we should be working on day and night?

No, that is not it.

How about repeal of the special \$50 billion tax break snuck into the tax bill for the tobacco industry? Does that take precedence?

No.

There is one simple thing. The House is adjourning at 4 p.m. today, a day on which we usually work late into the